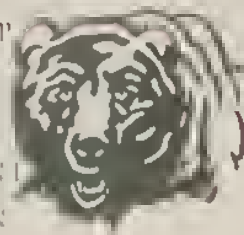


Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PARTNERSHIP
RESPECT
LEADERSHIP
COMMITMENT
INNOVATION



DEPARTMENT GOALS

Create an efficient and effective work environment where priorities are clear and employees are accountable, valued, and recognized for their contributions.

Provide quality opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of fish, wildlife, and parks resources.

Maintain and enhance the health of Montana's natural environment and of fish, wildlife, cultural, and historic resources.

Emphasize education, communication, and responsible behavior to afford Montanans the opportunity to better understand and participate in the decision-making processes that sustain our natural, recreational, and cultural resources for future generations.

COMMISSION

STAN MEYER, *Chairman*, Great Falls
DAVID W. SIMPSON, *Vice Chairman*, Haindl
DARLYNE DANCHEK, *For Peck*
CHARLES R. DECKER, *Libby*
TIM MULLIGAN, *Whitell*

fwp.state.mt.us
is FWP's award-winning home on the world-wide web. For a colorful look at Montana's latest hunting, fishing, wildlife, and parks news, please come visit us.

EMPHASIZING

education

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation, launched in December of 1999, funds important conservation work in Montana that goes beyond the scope of traditional user-fee funding. Foundation programs emphasize education and seek a heartfelt commitment from people to be partners in preserving and protecting the riches of Montana. Link to the Foundation's home page from fwp.state.mt.us.

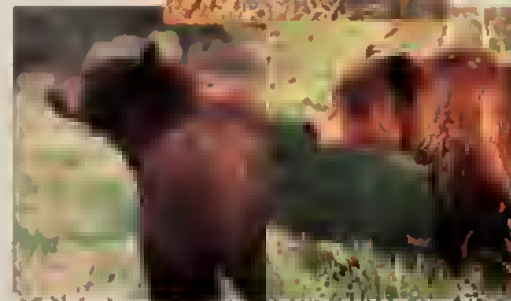
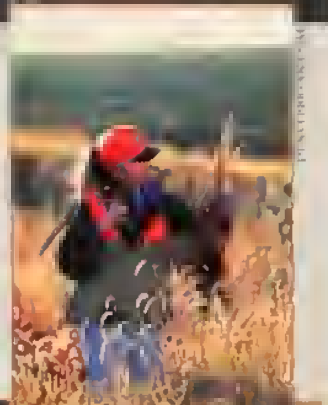
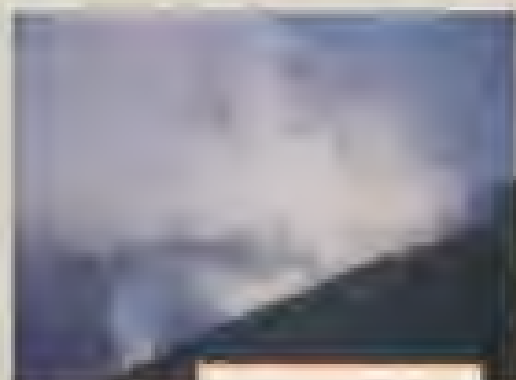
Montana's role-model Hunter Education Program reached nearly 8,500 students ages 12 and older with the help of over 1,500 volunteer hunter, bow hunter and trapper education instructors.

The fires of summer 2000 showered anxiety as well as ash over the state. Outdoor enthusiasts received daily updates on how the fires impacted the resources FWP manages through the FWP "Fire and Drought" web pages and a telephone hot-line. In one month, FWP responded to over 90,000 inquiries. Most big game animals were able to escape the fires, but the security and cover provided by the forest was reduced. Three major rivers were closed to angling for part of the summer and anglers, landowners, rangers, and others worked together to maintain critical instream flows.

Montana youth ages 15 to 17 enjoyed reduced fees—a fishing license for \$6.50 and resident upland game bird license for \$3.00—both about 50 percent less than in previous years. In 2000, 4,647 youth fishing licenses and 959 youth bird licenses were sold. Special youth pricing will also be available in 2001.

Over 600 women have enjoyed "Becoming An Outdoor Woman" summer and winter workshops offered by FWP since 1994. These popular opportunities provide women of all ages hands-on experience in fishing, fly-tying, archery, shotgun and rifle shooting, canoeing, map and compass reading, plant identification, and backpacking.

FWP is stepping up efforts to help black bear hunters distinguish between black and grizzly bears. Among the education efforts is an internet-based identification program at fwp.state.mt.us/heard.



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PARKS:

The Parks Division is responsible for development, maintenance, and operation of all state parks and affiliated sites with an objective of providing diverse recreational opportunities while preserving important historical and cultural resources within Montana.

WILDLIFE:

The Wildlife Division is responsible for managing all species of wildlife including big game, threatened and endangered species, upland game birds and nongame birds, and waterfowl in the state.

FISHERIES:

The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management and perpetuation of Montana's fish and other aquatic resources.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION:

The Conservation Education Division acts as a clearinghouse for information on FWP activities and news items to the media and conducts a variety of educational and recreation-safety programs.

ENFORCEMENT:

The Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing all the fish and game laws of Montana, FWP rules, and FWP Commission regulations. Division personnel also enforce state boating and snowmobile rules and state park regulations, as well as private property laws and hunting and fishing regulations.

FIELD SERVICES:

The Field Services Division is responsible for FWP's lands program and construction projects, as well as its Block Management (public hunting access) and landowner-hunter relations programs.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:

The Helena-based Director's Office staff makes major policy and administrative decisions. Regional supervisors handle on-the-ground implementation of policies and programs. The Administration and Finance Division is responsible for budgeting, accounting, purchasing, personnel, data processing, and administration of FWP's licensing functions.

REVENUE SOURCES 2001

FWP is funded primarily by user fees. Funding sources include:

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

This includes all license sales revenue, interest earnings, and other miscellaneous revenue. Nonresident sales account for nearly two thirds of FWP's total license revenue.

FEDERAL REVENUE

FWP receives federal funds to aid in fish and wildlife restoration efforts for parks development and maintenance and for boating safety, education, and regulation. Nearly \$11.1 million apportioned to Montana is derived from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, handguns, and certain archery equipment—as well as from an excise tax on fishing equipment and electric trolling motors, a portion of the federal-habitat tax, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

OTHER STATE REVENUE

Other state revenue sources include fees for state park use; a portion of the state lodging facilities use tax; a small percentage of the state fuel tax; interest earnings from civil servante tax receipts; and other miscellaneous revenue sources.

STATE GENERAL FUND

State tax dollars less than 1 percent of FWP's total budget comes from the general fund. About 75 percent of this funding goes to the Parks Division.

TOTAL REVENUE: \$53,818,725

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

64.3%

\$34,630,083

Federal Revenue

22.4%

\$12,064,642

Other State Revenue

12.5%

\$6,706,953

State

General Fund

0.8%

\$417,048

PLANNED EXPENDITURES 2001

FWP TOTAL:

Operating ... 45,634,900

Capital 8,183,825

Total 53,818,725

PARKS

8,813,968

FISHERIES

8,706,150

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

2,350,138

ENFORCEMENT

6,388,523

FIELD SERVICES

6,321,387

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

10,768,970

FWP SPENDS ITS MONEY TWO WAYS:

Operations for day-to-day management of fish, wildlife, and parks resources. Capital for major repair and maintenance of FWP properties, for renovation and construction of facilities, and to protect and enhance critical habitats.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

2000 Annual Report

The 100 years of conservation success we celebrate in 2001 was shaped by values we hold in common as Montanans:

- Respect for and a commitment to conserve wildlife and fish and the open spaces they need to survive.
- Recognition that certain natural, recreational, cultural, and historical features are the heart of Montana and should be set aside as state parks.
- Appreciation for the fragility of our fish, wildlife, and parks—renewable in many cases, but limited in the amount of use they can withstand.
- Leadership in viewing responsible conservation and management as an investment in our future.

We are proud of our conservation work, but these successes also bring a new set of challenges.

How will we negotiate a coexistence between humans and wildlife as more people move into the traditional ranges of grizzly and black bear, deer, and mountain lions? Can we find ways to fund conservation that benefits all people, not only hunters and anglers? How will we balance future resident and nonresident use of the resources and resolve our financial dependence on nonresidents? How will we manage recreational conflicts caused by multiple uses of the resources? Can we maintain and extend the conservation of the past as we grow economically and in population?

In the coming years, the solutions will be found in the collective work of many who may hold differing views but who share common values. As in the past, these values will be our North Star, equipping us to navigate a future where conservation will occur in the minds of the people as much as in the mountains, on elk winter ranges, in state parks, and on the headwaters of our major rivers.

Pat Graham

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Director—1993-2000

John Graham

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Commission Chairman—2001

SOME MONTANA VALUES

MAR 27 2001

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BOOK 104-105

IN STRIVING TO REACH OUR GOALS WE PROVIDE QUALITY

opportunities



The Block Management Program offers hunting access to nearly 8 million acres of private land enrolled by over 1,000 landowners. In 2000, new funding from a nonresident upland game bird license-fee increase allowed for growth and improved management to disperse hunting pressure.

Access Montana assists Montanans in using over 33 million acres of legally accessible state and federal land. The program works with landowners and land-management agencies to maintain and enhance access to isolated public lands. New forns available from state and federal land-management agencies help individuals report access problems.

Mule deer populations around the state are rebounding. Spring 2001 Adaptive Harvest Management aerial surveys of key populations will provide data to help determine the use of restrictive, moderate, or liberal hunting regulations. Decades of field research and a new understanding of environmental factors allow biologists to recommend regulations that maintain hunter opportunity and optimum deer numbers.

A new River Conflict Policy and new boating rules adopted by the FWP Commission, including no-wake zones in northwestern and west-central Montana and Tongue River Reservoir State Park, will help manage the complex social and resource issues that arise around heavily used bodies of water.

The new \$20-million warm-water fish hatchery at Fort Peck is a step closer to reality with the signing of the federal Water Resources Development Act. The hatchery will support native fish recovery and provide fish for stocking, including walleyes, smallmouth bass, northern pike, and other warm-water species. The hatchery will be built on 100 acres of federal land south of the dredge cuts below Fort Peck Dam.

PARKS AND TRAILS...

Montana's 41 state parks hosted 1.5 million visitors in 2000; 72 percent of visitors were residents, and 84 percent of the visitation was day-use. Montana's state parks are managed and staffed by FWP with the assistance of nearly 1,400 volunteers who gave 36,268 hours of their time in 2000—the equivalent of a \$213,981 contribution.

The dramatic cliffs of the buffalo jump at Ulm Pishkun State Park and the area at the base of the buffalo jump were acquired by FWP in a land exchange with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, ensuring this cultural feature will be preserved forever as a Montana state park. Ulm Pishkun State Park's visitor center was built in 1999.

Community grant programs for trails and facility improvements provided over \$1 million in 2000 for motorized and nonmotorized trails and community recreation facilities around the state.

At Chief Plenty Coups State Park over \$400,000 in restoration and preservation work since 1993 ensures this historically and culturally important site will endure. Improvements in the park are generated by the Crows Tribe, FWP, the Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Committee, interested museum experts, and the park's many dedicated friends and volunteers.

MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING

the health

OF MONTANA'S NATIVE SPECIES AND HABITAT

A 140,000-acre conservation easement recently approved in the Thompson and Fisher river valleys in northwest Montana is the largest of its kind in Montana's history. The nearly \$30 million agreement between FWP and Plum Creek Timber Company will be a phased acquisition drawing on hydroelectric dam mitigation funding from Bonneville Power Administration and Avista Corporation, the federal Forest Legacy Program, and a \$1.6 million donation by Plum Creek. The land-conservation legacy forged by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission in the past eight years includes appraisal of 328,100 acres in conservation easements and the purchase of 33,500 acres of important wildlife habitat.

Noxious weed management and awareness expanded with the hiring of a statewide weed coordinator who makes sure FWP has access to the latest information and resources and who works to enlist hunters, anglers, and others in preventing the spread of noxious weeds during outdoor recreation. In 2000, over \$230,000 in noxious weed maintenance and first-time treatments were completed on FWP lands.



Big game criminal investigations are more sophisticated with more interstate collaboration than ever before. In one case, seven individuals were charged with 28 counts in a federal felony indictment following a complex state and federal investigation. Fifty percent of the primary defendant's \$100,000 fine went to support Montana wildlife and 50 percent went to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Sentencing of the other defendants is pending.

Innovative grizzly bear work by the "Partners In Life" program will continue with the joint support of FWP and the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation. The program teaches people to safely coexist with grizzlies and uses Karelian bear dogs and aversive conditioning techniques to teach bears to avoid human food sources.

Mountain lions' hidden lives are being revealed in a 10-year study of lion population dynamics and behavior in the Garnet Range east of Missoula. Researchers are monitoring population trends, predation patterns, and general health as well as how hunting and local development affect lions along the much-used Blackfoot River.

Governor Marc Racicot accepted recommendations from the 12-member Wolf Management Advisory Council addressing public interests, public safety, maintaining wildlife populations, and protecting the livestock industry. FWP will draft a management plan based on the recommendations to take effect when wolves are delisted.

Chronic Wasting Disease testing over the past two hunting seasons showed no signs of the disease in 1,034 wild elk and deer taken by hunters. The only known CWD-infected elk—nine at an alternative livestock facility near Philipsburg—were destroyed. Other periodic CWD checks of elk and deer by biologists and wardens have been negative.

The Bull Trout Restoration Plan adopted in 2000 has broad support from state, federal, and private cooperators. In the Flathead Lake and river system, FWP and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have adopted a co-management plan for bull trout and other species. Bull trout, a threatened species, appear to be stabilizing or increasing in the Flathead, Swan, Kootenai, and Blackfoot river drainages.

Montana's continuing effort to protect and restore the westslope cutthroat trout was reflected in the federal decision not to list the native trout as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. In its decision, the USFWS said it was "encouraged by ongoing and planned state and local programs, most notably those in Montana."

